

ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

Vol. I, No. 2. — AUGUST, 1913, London. Price 6d.

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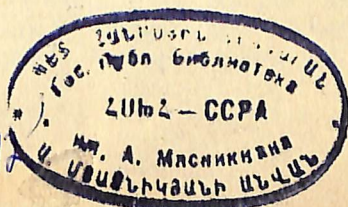
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Current Notes.

The situation in the Near East wears a gloomy aspect. Professor Rendel Harris summarises the whole case in a nutshell. He writes : "The news from the East is almost hopeless for a just settlement either in Europe or Asia. I should say that the barometer was falling fast ; prospects of fair weather almost *nil*."

Indiscriminate vengeance and slaughter wrought by Turks have followed on the advance of the Ottoman troops from Chatalja and the re-occupation of the territory wrested from them by Bulgaria last autumn. Unfortunately the victims of Rodosto and Malgara mostly are Armenians. Official reports are of so terrible a character that we find it necessary to alter or suppress in translation passages describing the worst forms of outrage. Yet in answer to Mr. N. Buxton's question whether these reports will be published, Sir E. Grey stated : "If I publish these reports I shall be bound to publish also those which I have received tending to incriminate other nationalities in the Balkans also." Why not publish all reports ? Massacres, whether perpetrated by Moslems or Christians, are condemnable.

Official telegrams sent to the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople are only a resumé of events which have attracted attention in the districts of Van, Bitlis, Erzeroum, Diarbekir, and in Cilicia. The same deplorable conditions prevail, more or less, throughout the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

In the face of all this chaos and anarchy it is no wonder that thousands of Armenians are leaving their homes for Russia and U.S.A. The emigration of the Armenians has of late taken such dimensions that the patriarchate appealed a fortnight ago to all the Armenians throughout Turkey not to forsake the land of their forefathers, and to cling steadily to their homes, looking forward to the better days which were sure to dawn now. It remains to be seen what effect such an appeal will have upon the despairing people who, when able to defend themselves against a Moslem robber are disarmed by the Turk, and when trusting to the latter cannot obtain any protection whatever.

As to Cilicia, not a week passes without some 50 to 70 strong young men from Hagin, Marash, and Adana emigrating to America. A custom prevalent in the time of Abdul Hamid is again revived ; the officials exact a tax of ten shillings to one pound from each emigrant.

The Armenian Patriarch Arsharouni has resigned as a protest against the conduct of the troops at Malgara and Rodosto and the inability of the authorities to remedy Armenian grievances.

Sir Edward Grey, in reply to a memorial submitted to him on behalf of the British Armenian communities in India, the Straits Settlements, and Ceylon, has stated that the question of reform in the Armenian vilayets of Asia Minor is receiving the earnest and urgent consideration of the Powers.

A deputation from the Armenian Church headed by the Archbishop of the Armenian Colonies in Europe—Mgr. George Utujian—asking the assembly of the United Free Church to use its influence in assisting the Armenian Church in its present time of difficulty and oppression was received.

The Moderator assured the deputation of the United Free Church's deep interest in the Armenian Church, and of their hopes and prayers for their welfare. (Applause.)

Thereafter a resolution expressing sympathy with the Armenian people in the oppression and sufferings which they had undergone for so many years, and resolving to send a copy of the deliverance to Sir Edward Grey, in the hope that justice might be done to the Armenian Church, was carried unanimously.

The Outlook.

What was called the pressing question of Armenia two months ago, still remains as pressing as ever. The outlook at the present moment is enveloped in an impenetrable haze, and no man can say what to-morrow will bring. It is enough for us here to record the existing condition of the Armenian Question and the possibilities ahead.

TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat. The Turk has been allowed to flounder on for the past sixty years as an European Power, not at the will but in spite of Europe. He is, indeed, smitten now with that dementia which is hurrying him to destruction. His last act in flouting the latest treaty obligations and stepping into Adrianople may be a consummate feat in Oriental diplomacy, but let us hope that he has misjudged the temper of the European Concert, which should brook no delay in compelling him to put his house in order on civilised lines. The Balkan feud may delay the settlement of matters affecting the Allies and the Turks, but it should not be allowed to hinder the introduction of reforms in a region where there is no question of conquest or delimitation, where anarchy reigns in an accentuated form, and where misery is spreading. Delay in such a case means desperation to the oppressed, encouragement to the oppressor, and the outcome of the combination may be too appalling to contemplate. The Great Powers of Europe have the final solution in the hollow of their hands—will they, in the name of humanity, set aside their petty jealousies regarding influence and spheres, and act with decision?

ARMENIAN HELPLESSNESS.

We have the usual long string of woeful happenings in Armenia itself, some of which will be found recorded in these pages. The Patriarch in Constantinople struggles in vain with the Turkish authorities for redress, for even a semblance of justice; an impassioned appeal is made by him to Armenians not to leave their country, as good times must come. This is scarcely a cry of optimism, but one of despair uttered in the face of Europe with the full consciousness that Turkish government is past praying for, and that it has been long since bankrupt. It is followed by the latest object-lesson for Europe—and being on the European side of the Bosphorus, it has been duly reported in the Press—the massacre of helpless Armenians at Rodosto. We have not heard that anything has been done to the perpetrators of this dastardly deed. The Patriarch's final protest is his resignation, which on this occasion has been accepted; but how does this assist the cause of Armenia? *That*, we say emphatically, the Powers are alone in a position to do—and we ask again, will they act decisively and at once?

THE INTERESTED POWERS.

With regard to the Powers, three are directly interested in Asia Minor, two of these more particularly in Armenia—Great Britain, by virtue of her obligations under the Treaty of Berlin and the Cyprus Convention; Russia, owning as she already does a slice of Armenia, and having her borders conterminous with the hapless six vilayets; and finally Germany, who has silently and permanently acquired her sphere of influence along the alignment of the Bagdad Railway. Is there any insurmountable barrier to these three Powers joining hands to accomplish a humanitarian task of supreme urgency? We can only record here the information we have gathered as to the proceedings of these Powers.

THEIR RECENT ACTION.

In the last number of *Ararat*, among the British Parliamentary reports, it was observed on Sir Edward Grey's authority that Turkey had asked for the loan of British officials for the administration of the Asiatic provinces, and that the matter was under consideration. A month has elapsed and there is no word as to the progress of the negotiations, if indeed they have not fallen through altogether. We need not emphasise the fact that much of the plight of Armenia must be laid at England's door for neglect of treaty obligations; and the British public has a right to know to what extent she is trying to repair the harm she has done in the past.

With regard to Russia, our information is restricted to two items—(1) that Russia has been taking a strong lead at the Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople for the introduction of reforms in Armenia; and (2) that she has been massing troops on her southern frontier in close proximity to Ararat, and within striking distance of Turkish Armenia.

All we know about Germany is the rumour that she, in conjunction with Great Britain, has protested against the occupation of Armenia by Russian troops.

A BUFFER STATE.

If our information is correct, the obvious conclusion to be derived is that while the intention of assisting Armenia exists, it has been found difficult to harmonise the interests of the above three Powers in bringing about the necessary relief.

It is to the interest of Europe, especially of Great Britain and Germany that the semblance of the Turkish Empire in Asia Minor should be preserved, as much as it is to its interest that the rivalries of the Great Powers should not clash with each other in that region. Though Armenia has not yet asked for autonomy, would it not be to the good of all concerned that its six vilayets should be formed into a buffer State, under the suzerainty of Turkey but under the control of the Powers, with an outlet to the Black Sea by Trebizond?

Of the three Powers most interested, each could do its share for the amelioration of the country. England has no land hunger, especially in this part of the world, and might safely be entrusted with the administration of Armenia for a fixed period, while she trained local talent, Armenian and Turk in proportion to population, for gradually filling responsible posts. Russia's share might be the administrative control of a strip of country on the Black Sea, having Trebizond as the centre, with a high road leading direct into Armenia, thus giving that country an outlet to the sea. Germany, on her part, would be free to exercise her influence in the sphere of the Bagdad Railway in direct communication with Turkey.

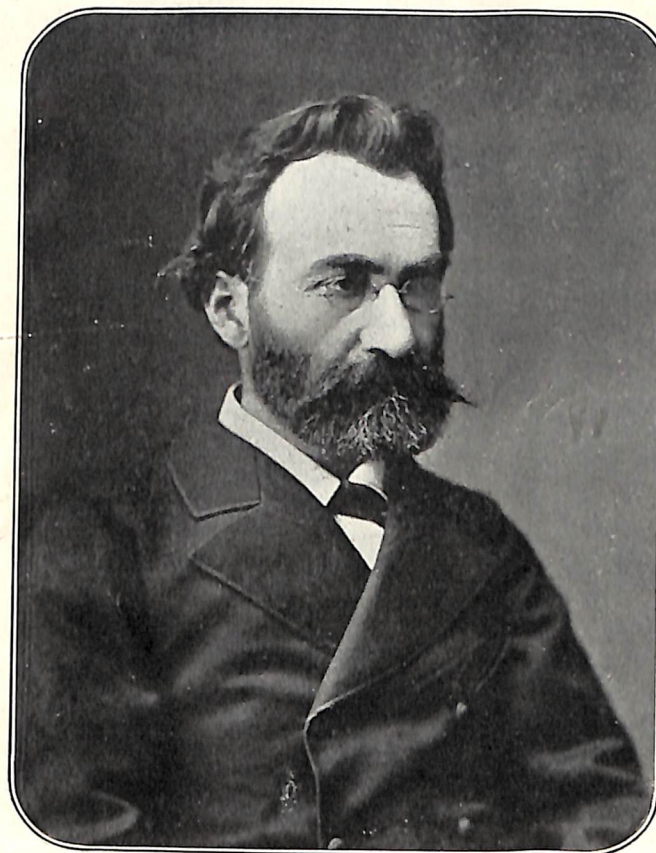
THE POWERS AND HARMONY.

That Turkey must submit to European control as the *sine qua non* of financial assistance, all who have her interests at heart have realised. The question for her, in her straits, is to consider whether she should do it with a good grace. She could fully trust England, herself a great Mohammedan Power, to control for her the administration of the Armenian vilayets, provided Russia and Germany raise no obstacles. It is to the humanitarian instincts of these two latter Powers that an appeal must be made. With Armenia as a buffer State, the interests of Russia and Germany would not impinge on each other in this region, while the Moslem antagonism to a Turkish province passing permanently into Russian hands, as would inevitably be the case if Russian troops marched into Armenia, would be avoided. As an earnest of good government, Turkey must necessarily submit to the right of the Powers to intervene, as a final court of appeal in matters of administration.

ARMENIAN RECONSTRUCTION—TURKEY'S OPPORTUNITY.

It is safe to say that a buffer State of such a nature, with an outlet to the Black Sea, would soon lead to the repatriation of a vast number of Armenians who have left their native land in consequence of Turkish misrule, and whose solid interests in and aptitude for commercial and industrial enterprise would transform in a short time a devastated province into a flourishing adjunct of the Turkish Empire. Thus the crying want of Armenia for settled government would at last be conceded, while Turkey would gain in revenue and prestige.

G. M. G.



RAFFI (1837—1888.)

The Araxes,

BY Raffi.

The Araxes—the river of Armenia—here meant to be symbolical of the Armenian nation.

“The ancient Araxes had wonderful quicksands. It had also wonderful caprices. From time immemorial it had fought against its uneven banks, as if it were discontented with the narrow bed that Nature, just as capricious, had traced out for it. It loved space, it loved freedom, the narrow bed exasperated it.

“Sometimes two parallel ranges of mountains would combine, and press it in their deep and narrow valley. Then its fury knew no bounds. It dashed itself against its rocky banks with terrible fury;

it thundered, it howled, and it foamed; it seemed as if one could hear the fateful words through its terrific roaring: ‘It is narrow, it is narrow—I am suffocated.’”

“Sometimes the alliance of the two mountain ranges would be broken—they would separate from each other and stand far apart, leaving a wide plain before the river. Then its wilfulness was unbounded. Like a wicked dragon, freed from its narrow bed, it flooded its green shores ruthlessly; or reeled like a tipsy giant now to the right, now to the left, and could not continue its course in a straight line. But it never knew how to use its freedom wisely. Suddenly it would stretch out its giant arms and snatch a piece of ground from one of its shores, press it in its cold embrace, and make an island of it. For a while it petted and took care of its plaything with imaginary affection; the island was covered with grass, trees began to grow on it, and it was alight with flowers. The birds of heaven built their nests there and the wild beasts nurtured their young. The island was a beautiful bouquet that it wore on its proud breast as a gay youth wears a flower in his buttonhole. But suddenly it tired of its toy. The foaming waves rose high, the billows howled wildly, and in a few moments they swallowed the beautiful island without leaving any trace of it.”

Raffi Commemoration.

ARMENIA'S GREATEST WRITER, REFORMER AND CHAMPION.

Armenians all over the World are commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Raffi, the great Armenian patriot and writer. In Tiflis alone these celebrations have lasted for two weeks, eulogizing Raffi by lectures, gatherings, commemoration services, etc. He was not only a great literary genius, but it was he who aroused national spirit in Armenians by echoing their sorrows in his writings, and it is not surprising that he is almost worshipped by Armenians. There is no Armenian who has not heard his name or has not read his works.

The London celebration at the Queen's Gate Hall, South Kensington, took the form of a performance of "The Re-construction of Armenia," an allegorical play by Raffi. There were also speeches in English and Armenian and songs.

Dr. Calantarients, who presided, said : " I feel it a great privilege that I am called upon to preside at a unique occasion like the present, especially in the history of the Armenian Colony in London, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the lamented death of our celebrated national writer, Raffi.

" I do most sincerely wish that the choice had fallen upon someone more capable of doing justice to his abilities and achievements in the field of Armenian literature, but I believe my chief qualification for the honour is that I knew Raffi personally, for he was an old friend of mine.

" I met him in our younger days, in the summer of 1857, in Persia, and enjoyed his hospitality at Salmast and Ourmi. The remembrance of that friendship has always been one of the most cherished in my life. Our daily intercourse, his earnest advocacy for progress, his high appreciation of European civilisation and learning, have certainly had their effect upon the course of my life. I remember how earnestly he used to discuss questions of all kinds with important men he came in contact with, whether Persians, Assyrians or Armenians. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was a man of means, well educated, and accustomed to associate with the best men, whether in Persia or in the Caucasus. He had frequent relations with Persian noblemen and was honoured by a visit from the Viceroy with the enormous retinue of 400 horsemen, whom he entertained in his house at Salmast—the Prince was so pleased with him that he decorated him with royal presents. Raffi used his influence for the advancement of the Armenians. He was a prolific writer of the highest order, and the influence of his writings has been immense upon the whole Armenian nation—there are already 28 volumes published, and he has left many manuscripts which have not yet seen the light. One can only deplore his untimely and unexpected death at the early age of 51."

As Raffi's widow and his two sons are at present in London, from all parts of the world sympathetic letters and telegrams have been received, among the senders being the Catholicos of All Armenians, the Patriarch of Constantinople, well-known Armenian bishops, literary men, numerous societies and Armenian colonies. These were read by Mr. A. P. Hacobian.

Miss Z. C. Boyajian read a paper on "Raffi, his Life and Works." We cite a few passages only from her resumé: "All his literary work is one passionate cry of love, and of protest against the apathy and slavery into which his people had fallen. And what was the result? The dry bones were resuscitated—an electric current of life, a feeling of consciousness, passed through the whole nation. Everywhere, in all the remote corners of Armenia, Raffi's works were eagerly procured, hidden in dark cellars, read by torchlight under the ground, passed on from house to house, through secret passages; the nation began to know itself and believe itself, to rush forward madly, perhaps, but still with new life, courage and hope towards a higher national life and higher ideals. Raffi was a patriot as far as the word describes one who suffers with the sufferings of his nation, who loves his native country, language and history—one of the longest histories on the face of the earth, losing itself in the legends that cling around Mount Ararat as do the mists of the dawn.

"As to his literary merits, Raffi can describe scenery as magnificently as any writer that every lived. The scent of the mountains, thyme, and the odours of wet earth cling to his novels. They are fresh and true to the life, for he analysed and described every passion of the human soul, love, hatred, jealousy, and other emotions so complicated that no western writer has ever realised or described them. He paints pictures of Armenian life with the fidelity, humour and minuteness of a Teniers or a Ter Borch, yet it is all done with a few simple strokes of the brush. But all this is made subservient to the main idea, that of national regeneration and independence. He seems to say: 'I understand and love all these things, but so long as our nation is down-trodden and degraded we have no right to stop and enjoy the beautiful things of life and art.'"

To give any adequate idea of the literary work of Raffi in a few pages would be impossible. He has written many novels, as well as poetry and literary and political essays, etc. The most interesting of his works are a series of novels which he wrote with the object of vaguely outlining a plan of action for the moral and political salvation of Armenia, and these were what made him the idol of the people. Raffi writes in pictures rather than by making a philosophical analysis of character; yet the character is there before you—true and living, drawn with a few rapid strokes of the brush. Raffi is so much of an artist that these works would appeal just as strongly to foreigners as to the Armenians themselves, to whom the passionate earnestness of his national feeling appeals so strongly.

He spent nearly all his time in work, and very seldom attended any amusement or entertainment. He was very fond of birds and flowers, his chief recreation being the cultivation of roses, of which he had a great many varieties.

The whole nation mourned for him when he passed away on Easter Day of 1888. His funeral was unprecedented, and served as the medium for a great manifestation of the whole nation's feelings. Numerous wreaths of flowers and telegrams of sympathy were sent from all quarters. Triumphal arches covered with flowers were erected all along the roads through which the funeral procession passed, the cortège being joined by people of other nationalities. He was laid to rest in the Armenian Cemetery in the Monastery of Khoja Vank in Tiflis.

Miss Boyajian gave an English translation of a few passages from Raffi's works. We cite on the other page only "a picture of the Araxes."

Mr. Z. Tiratzian, a well-known Armenian singer, sung beautifully, "Speak, oh Lake" and "Lullaby," words by Raffi. "The Lake of Van," as recited by Miss Phylis Jacobs, was a great success.

Miss Arslanian unveiled the portrait of Raffi, painted by Miss Z. C. Boyajian, and presented by the artist to the widow of Raffi.

Mr. Z. Tiratzian also said a few words of the work done by Mrs. Raffi, who has published after her husband's death 28 voluminous books, including several manuscripts.

Professor Hagopian and Mr. Sarafian paid tributes to the memory of the departed patriot.

Miss Boyajian's and Mr. Tiratzian's recitation of "Tzain toor ov tzovak" was very effective. The last, but not the least, was "The Reconstruction of Armenia," an allegorical play by Raffi, which was the most interesting feature of the evening.

Written in 1855. First produced at Bijou Theatre, London, in 1906 and in 1907. The Spirit of Armenia is represented wandering among the ruins beneath Mount Ararat to reconstruct her country. Four heroes in native costume offer four stones for the foundation:

The First hero represents Religion and Ethics.

The Second hero represents Arts, Science and Progress.

The Third hero represents Land, Economics and Social Welfare.

The Fourth hero represents Arms, Liberty, and Political Independence.

While they are discussing the various merits of their ideas, two old men enter and offer the foundation stone of Darkness and Stagnation. They are followed and supported by their King Pluto. Mercury appears to say that the Gods have called a council on Mount Ararat to settle the dispute and Athene is sent to read their verdict: "That the advocates of darkness are condemned to eternal perdition, while the four heroes are brothers, and their stones are to be laid at the four corners of the new edifice, which is to be based upon their combined support."

The play was repeatedly interrupted with great applause, especially the speeches of the hero representing *Arms, Liberty, and Political Independence*. At the close the play aroused great enthusiasm from a mixed audience of English and Armenians, the actors being again and again called.

Miss Z. Boyajian's performance of "Spirit of Armenia" was very artistic. The other parts were ably filled by Miss Bagram, Miss Phylis Jacobs, Mr. Z. Tiratzian, Mr. A. R., Mr. D. Ardash, Mr. S. Berhoular, Professor G. Hagopian, Mr. Gaulston, Mr. A. Safrastian, and Mr. Hekimian.

The scenery was especially painted by Miss Z. C. Boyajian. There were received also several letters from well-known English personalities. The Right Hon. G. W. E. Russell wrote: "Had I been able to attend I should have reminded my hearers that my great friend and leader, Mr. Gladstone, bore Armenia on his heart, and lips, to the very Gate of the Eternal World. We cannot doubt that he remembers you still." Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., wrote: "I am doing my best for the cause." Professor Rendel Harris wrote: "We do not forget how critical the situation still is for the Armenian people. May their deliverance soon come." Mr. Harold Spender wrote: "I have the greatest sympathy with your cause, and your celebration to the memory of your national hero has my best wishes." Letters were received also from the Earl of Lytton, Lady Boyle, Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., Professor F. C. Conybeare and many others.

From München came a letter from Dr. Hermann Von Staden, the editor of "Geist des Ostens," who also mentioned that the June number of his review contained a character sketch of Raffi and his works, a translation of his "Kurds," and his picture. He has also published in book form, Raffi's Vardan (Khent) translated into German by Professor Dr. Joseph Karst.

From Paris, Mdlle. E. Altian, a French authoress wrote "I am translating Raffi's 'Samuel' into French, it is such a wonderful, beautiful work that it makes me very happy to work at it."

In a recent number of "Pour les peuples d'Orient" of Paris, there are also words of appreciation of Raffi's work and his picture.

In the "Daily Sketch" has appeared a picture of Raffi's widow and his two sons, also five pictures of the representation of "The Reconstruction of Armenia."

In an account of the celebration "The Star" says:—

"Numerous telegrams, letters and messages from Russia, Persia, Turkey, Abyssinia, India, and the Continent have been received for the London commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Raffi, the great Armenian patriot.

"Raffi did for his race with the pen something of what Mazzini effected by his writings for Italy, and his inspired declarations in books are still clarion calls to his countrymen who dream of the re-possession of the five vilayets once their homes.

"At the allegorical play woven by Raffi around the spirit of Armenia, which will be staged at the Queen's Gate Hall, South Kensington, to-night, will be seen the picturesque costume of the Turkish Armenian, the long flowing gown of red silk, with kamar band and red fez; the long grey cloak of the Persian Armenian, and the Cossack dress of the Russian Armenian.

"Raffi's memorable appeals to his demoralised nation after centuries of subjugation, 'Zartir' (wake up) and 'Tsania skez' (know thyself), will again be heard as in the days when 'Kaitser' (sparks) was written for an emancipated Armenia.

"The son of a wealthy titled family, Raffi was born in Persia in 1837, and was educated in Russia.

"It was for his exposure of the practices in the Persian harem that he was condemned to death.

"Paron Arshak Raffi, the son of the dead patriot, residing with his mother and brother at Shepherd's Bush, told a "Star" man that to-day Armenian wives can still be kidnapped.

"In a Mussulman country," he said, "one dare not be beautiful, and if a girl grows up a beauty, she often consents to have her face mutilated or scarred, or one of her eyes put out to escape being taken to the harem.

"My father only escaped death through the Viceroy, whom he knew, and he was escorted over the frontier to Russia."

"C. S. Monitor of Boston," after a lengthy description of the celebration and the play, says:—

"Although written and spoken in Armenian, it was not difficult for one unacquainted with the language to follow the play by the slight help of the programme, a fact which shows that the acting was of a high character. Ignorance of the language, however, made it impossible to understand the great applause which greeted every speech of the fourth hero, the Russian Armenian, representing arms, liberty and political independence, but one could hazard a fairly accurate guess.

"Mention must be made of the performance of Miss Z. C. Boyajian, who as the 'Spirit of Armenia' played a difficult part with ease and distinction."

"The Daily Sketch" says the Armenians of London are emerging out of their comparative obscurity to commemorate Raffi, their national poet. Then he gives an interesting interview with Mr. N. P. Hagobian about London Armenians. He says that most of the colony have made London their permanent home.

They have come from all parts of the world—Java, Persia, Turkey. Some have been servants of the British Government in India.

"The other day I met two Armenian ladies who, though they had lived here for two years, did not know any of their own race in London.

"The first information of Raffi commemoration in London was conveyed to them through a Tiflis newspaper which had published a paragraph about the Raffi commemoration in London."

The main industry of the Armenians is making Persian and Turkish carpets, and at this kind of work they become the most skilled workmen in the world.

There are a number of merchants, too, engaged in the dried fruit trade, and coffee merchants who import from Java and India.

"The Armenian is sober and peace-loving, and if he is left alone will remain on good terms with all the world. We are fond of travelling, and yet we have a passionate love for our own country.

"An Armenian is always a patriot, no matter where he may be, and he always looks forward to the day when his fatherland will take its place again among the nations of Europe.

"Conditions there have become absolutely intolerable, but when they are changed then we will show the rest of the world how well we can govern and be governed."

There is a large Armenian colony in Manchester, chiefly concerned in the cotton trade.

One of the *Impertinent Queries* of "London Life" (July 28) is: "Have the recent celebrations in London by the Armenian Colony of the 25th anniversary of the death of Raffi, the national writer and champion, anything to do with the laudable desires of a people struggling to be free?"

There were other reports in "*The Manchester Guardian*," "*The Westminster Gazette*," "*The Near East*," and "*The Kensington News*."

Raffi Commemoration in Paris took place on July 26th. Rev. V. Kibarian, M. M. Varandian, and M. M. Harutiuniantz delivered passionate speeches eulogizing Raffi.

How I came to take up the Cause of Armenia.

Some letters of mine on the terribly tragic state of Armenia recently published in the *Daily News and Leader*, the *Daily Chronicle*, *Spectator*, *Manchester Guardian*, the *Near East*, *Boston C. S. Monitor*, having been received with considerable sympathy, it struck me that perhaps some readers of *Ararat* might like to know how I came to be interested in the affairs of that country. Having been brought up in a world of newspapers my interest in Armenia dates from the last century. My father, the late Sir John R. Robinson, of the *London Daily News*, was greatly interested in Armenia, and I remember well how at the time of the horrible massacres in 1895-6 he sent out special correspondents, who described the dreadful doings in the columns of that paper. Newspapers then were sickening reading indeed. It was then that Mr. Gladstone lifted up his voice on behalf of Armenia and thrilled, not only England but the world, as he reminded this country in the strongest language he could command of its duty to the cruelly persecuted Christians in Asia Minor. The duty remains the same and is still unfulfilled!

A friend recently sent me a little pamphlet entitled "The Plight of Armenia," and I was filled with horror to find that such terrible things were going on, as are there described. On my asking for further information news of fresh cruel deeds was forthcoming only too quickly. Being struck by the utter lack of justice meted out to the Armenians, I wrote some letters to the *Daily News and Leader* in the hope of arousing interest and getting public support. Considerable surprise has been expressed in various quarters at the fact that the news contained in those letters has been passed over in silence by the English Press. Possibly this may be accounted for by the war in the Balkans, which has absorbed public attention for so long.

A mass of correspondence on the subject of those letters has reached me from English people and also from Germans; it is all written in one strain—that of deep sympathy. The following are a few extracts:—"We are so glad you have taken up the cause of the poor Armenians. It is high time some one did." Several say: "You are doing a good work in making the state of things in Armenia known." "Best wishes for a successful campaign." "One must hope that the Government will do its duty in the matter." "It can only do good to make the facts known in all their baldness." "One hardly understands the government of the world when one hears of such things." "I hope something will at last be done for Armenia." "Your letters ought to do much good, especially in giving these poor unhappy beings a share of the limelight now so exclusively concentrated on the 'Allies'." "You must wake up somebody influential if you keep it up like this." "I will do what I can" (from a man with influence). "You are engaged in a noble work." "Every good wish for a blessing upon your labours devoted to saving human beings from cruelty and wickedness." "Any effort made on behalf of the Armenians meets with my intensest sympathy. I do not know how it is that anyone reading Mr. Spender's letters or your own can remain quiescent. Were but Mr. Gladstone alive I believe meetings would be organised and a mandate, and an imperious one too, given to the Government to act at once." "We have read your letters . . . and are sure that they ought to arouse the sympathy of the English nation." "Could you get your letters printed as a pamphlet? If so I would engage to help in distributing some." A well-known author writes: "You are doing splendid service in keeping the question fresh in the public mind. One day, thanks to such service, it will all come right. . . . What you propose is, of course, the only thing that will give the Armenians the only chance of fair play." This alludes to the appointment of a European Governor-General. A prominent public man writes: "The work you have done in this matter is deserving of all praise. I hope that it will be rewarded, and that soon."

If these words are the means of inducing any readers to make themselves acquainted with the conditions under which the people of the oldest civilised race are now living they will have attained their end. To know of a crime and to be a party to hushing it up is in itself a

crime. Knowing the state of Armenia it is difficult to believe that anyone with the smallest sense of justice could be content to "remain quiescent"; to anyone who is not callous to human suffering this would certainly be impossible. In conclusion, a few words from a private letter of the late W. E. Gladstone, which are as applicable to-day as when he wrote them in December, 1895, may not be out of place here: "I, for my own part, rejoice in any and every plan which aims at making known the appalling distress of the Armenians, and rousing the European people to comprehend the deplorable disgrace which every day of continued apathy on this question deepens more and more."

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

"A Counter-Policy."

Mr. Harold Spender's article in the *Daily News and Leader* of the 3rd July, which is quoted in the last issue of *Ararat*, has done much to allay the uneasiness which had been engendered among Armenians owing to the comparative lukewarmness with which the British Press, with few exceptions, had treated the Armenian Question.

Mr. Spender asks why the Armenian Question has proved insoluble in the past, in spite of the provisions of the Berlin Treaty and of the Cyprus Convention for the introduction of reforms. One answer to that question, as he truly observes, is the misfortune of our geographical position. We have suffered under this misfortune since the dawn of history; and it has been the main cause of our undoing as a nation. That unfortunate circumstance has made Armenia the natural battle-ground of religions and creeds, of unending intrigues and ambitions, of conquest and dominion by Babylonians and Assyrians, Medes and Macedonians, Greeks and Romans, Arabs and Georgians, and finally by Turks, Russians, Tartars and Kurds, who have each in turn, devastated or annexed the country.

Since 1853, when Lord Palmerston first promulgated the doctrine of "supporting Turkey" as the keystone of British Near Eastern policy, unhappy Armenia has once again served as the inevitable battle-ground, not indeed with clash of arms, but with the clash of Russian and British interests, the one positive, having the "drang" to the sea for its goal, the other negative, implying an implacable opposition to such advance. Meanwhile the so-called protected Christian population inhabiting the point of contact of these mighty interests have been delivered up to the tender mercies of Turk and Kurd with a degree of cynical indifference to treaty guarantees and responsibilities quite beyond comprehension, simply because of the distrust and suspicion that have so long characterised the relations between Great Britain and Russia in Asia. This rivalry and mutual suspicion of the two great Asiatic empires has been an even greater obstacle to the execution of reforms than our geographical situation in itself.

Mr. Spender goes on to say, "the result of this geographical remoteness is that, whatever good government Europe may promise, it is almost impossible for Europe to guarantee." The truth of this statement, as far as it applies to the Western Powers, was brought home to us with terrible effect when, after the Sassoun massacres, Lord Salisbury declared that the British fleet was not in a position to sail over the Taurus mountains. But surely Mr. Spender must know that it does not apply to Russia. To her these much-troubled provinces are as easily accessible as was the Lebanon to the French expeditionary force in 1860. This unalterable fact of Russia's geographical proximity cannot be left out of count in any attempt to reform the Armenian provinces. As both Mr. Gladstone and the late Duke of Argyll declared, a frank and full co-operation with Russia—now happily practicable—is the shortest cut to the prompt introduction of reforms, while Russia is the only one of the six Great Powers in a position effectively to guarantee and supervise their execution. By the extreme moderation of her present Balkan policy, Russia has earned the gratitude and confidence of Europe—a different Russia from the chauvinistic, aggressive and reactionary power she was during the greater part of the last century. Why not invest her with a European mandate for this specific purpose?

It is to be earnestly hoped that the lessons of the failure of the reform projects of the Rosebery Cabinet and its immediate successor are present in the minds of the present Government. Much as Armenians generally welcome the proposal to introduce reforms through the advice and co-operation of experienced British officers and as much as possible on British lines, pray God that the Government and the Foreign Office will not once again ignore the rock on which former attempts to solve the Armenian Question have met shipwreck. We have learnt by the bitterest experience that ever befell a hapless nation, that any scheme of reforms, not drawn up and executed with the whole-hearted support and co-operation of Russia, is foredoomed to failure.

Though not versed in the art of "high politics," Armenians have a fair notion of the measure of sacrifice of British interests that this "counter-policy," as the Duke of Argyll called an understanding with Russia on the Armenian Question, involves. After all it is not a large sacrifice, inasmuch as Russia's special and unalterable geographical position in relation to these provinces is bound sooner or later to give her the opportunity of exercising her civilising influence, with all its faults, and so ensuring an incomparably better system of government. Will the British Government of to-day adopt this "counter-policy" advocated by many great Liberals in the past, and which, in addition to blotting out a very dark spot at the very gates of Europe, may well prove the higher British interest in the long run? Will Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey adopt this "counter-policy" to save from utter destruction the wreckage that now remains of a once flourishing and an ancient and cultured Christian race? We shall "wait and see" with hope mingled with anxiety.

A. P. H.

A Red Monday.

RODOSTO AND MALGARA MASSACRES.

A report from the special delegation sent to Rodosto by the Armenian Patriarchate to investigate the occurrences at that place:—

The catastrophe of Rodosto took place under the following circumstances. On Monday last twenty volunteers, under the command of an officer, arrived on board an Ottoman warship to take possession of the administration of Rodosto. Hardly had they disembarked when they began to rush about the place. The terrified population shut itself up in its houses. After the Bulgarians gave up the town the Commissaire Miguiditch Effendi, a Bulgarian subject, and representing the authorities of that country, was cruelly assassinated. Some Turkish soldiers cut off his ears and took them to an Armenian woman, whom they threatened with the same fate, and pointed their bayonets at her. The poor woman was so terrified that she nearly died. At the same moment two Armenian gendarmes, Bulgarian subjects, were also murdered.

Then the volunteers divided into several parties, which, each having at their head four or five Bashi Bazouks, attacked the Armenians in the market place and massacred eight of them. Happily, having made known beforehand their plan of massacre and pillage, a complete extermination was avoided by the fact that the Armenians had taken refuge in their houses. Then, owing to indications given them by certain scoundrelly Mussulmans and Greeks, and under the pretext of looking for Bulgarian officers and soldiers, some of the Turks managed to get into some Armenian houses, where they committed robberies.

KILLED IN THE FIELDS.

People working in the fields, among whom were some Armenian soldiers captured at Adrianople, were atrociously butchered by the ferocious populace. As everyone is forbidden to leave the town, a number of people, both men and women, came to us to-day to ask us to recover their children, dead or alive, whom they had lost for the last three or four days. Steps taken with this object were stopped.

To judge by appearances and reliable assurances, Rodosto would have been a second Adana but for the vigilance of the Armenians. Various Armenian foreign subjects, Movses Bey Hagopovitch, Dr. Movses Maghakian, Sarkis Effendi Hagopovitch, the Vice-Consul of Persia, MM. Richad and Edmond Dussey, the Levantine Church, as well as the Consular corps, have, by giving asylum to Armenians, prevented a general massacre, and one must see in this preservation of our compatriots the finger of Providence.

Appearances and facts point to the conclusion that the danger has now disappeared. The British Consul gave us the same assurance. We wish to dwell on the protection granted in these terrible days to the Armenians at Rodosto by the foreign Consuls, and we feel it our duty to profess to them our profound gratitude.

This afternoon (date not stated) we arrived at Rodosto at the same time as the civil and military authorities, 320 gendarmes and about 150 soldiers. In the streets we observed sanguinary signs. The shops—probably of Armenians—were closed. On the road leading to our vicariate we only met a few Armenians. The dangers of massacre had terrified the population, whom our presence encouraged and consoled. Priests and laity, members of the local council, hastened to the vicariate, where, with tears in their eyes they expressed to us their thanks and gratitude for the rapid measures taken by the Patriarchate.

HORRIBLE MUTILATIONS.

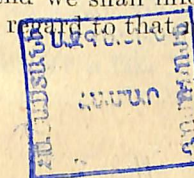
We went to the Armenian cemetery, where the corpses of the Armenians assassinated in the town had been gathered. To-day, from the environs of Rodosto, five corpses have been brought in on vehicles. They were in a state of putrefaction. One of the victims had had his hands cut off, another his feet, and in another case the skull had been split with an axe. It was a terrible spectacle, which several of the Consuls were unable to look upon.

In the cemetery the men were gathered on one side and the women on the other, weeping. Stifling my own grief, I felt hardly able to address a few words of consolation to those unfortunate people bowed down by indescribable despair. To-day, at a distance of one hour from the town, near the bridge of Tavanli, a man named Karnik Zavtarian and an Armenian soldier, who was captured at Adrianople, were murdered.

Towards evening news came to the vicariate that the authorities had told off men to bury on the spot the victims who had fallen in the fields, and then to clear off all traces of the murders. Thirty piastres (6s. 3d.) are being paid per corpse. It is persistently rumoured that some Mussulman scoundrels were going to fire shots at night in the Armenian quarter and then, by accusing our compatriots, provoke a massacre.

We immediately despatched our vicar to the Mutessarif to complain of these infamous machinations, and at the same time to ask him to put at our disposal some gendarmes in order that they might accompany us and assist us in searching for the victims in the fields, whose number perhaps exceeds 100, so that we might render to them the last duties of religion. A takrir to this effect, in which we also asked for proper measures to guarantee the life and security of Armenians, has been addressed to the Mutessarif.

The latter promised us that he would not delay in reassuring the population, and that on the following morning he would place at our disposal some gendarmes to assist us in searching for the victims slain outside the town. We have received contradictory news on the subject of danger at Malgova, and we shall inform you as soon as possible of what we may learn with regard to that matter.



VENGEANCE ON THE CHRISTIANS.

The following extracts from a report on the massacres at Rodosto and Malgara, written specially for "*Azatamart*" (a Constantinople daily of high repute) casts a fresh light on what actually took place after the evacuation of those towns by the Bulgarians and their re-occupation by the Turkish troops:—

"There were four civic officials left at Rodosto with six or seven gendarmes with instructions to quit the town after the preliminaries for the official delivery of the town had been gone through.

"On Monday, July 14th, two Turkish ships arriving at Rodosto anchored opposite the place called Rizvan-Dere; these were accompanied by one coast-guardship (called Nev-Shehir) and one torpedo-boat (Druge).

The Armenian and the Greek Bishopric were notified by the Governor to welcome the Ottoman officials at the Government House.

The Turkish troops consisted of two regiments, most of the soldiers being irregulars, under the command of Eshref Bey. The latter, with a section of his troops, on landing immediately proceeded to the Government House.

The general aspect of this landing indicated rather a military invasion than a peaceable occupation.

The massacres were signalized by an unprovoked and unexpected ill-humour of a batch of soldiers that was meted out to the Chief of Police (an Armenian) and his three gendarmes, who were waiting for the Turks to enter into possession of the Police Administration. All four were shot dead on the spot, though no resistance was in any way shown to them to arouse their animosity.

On hearing of what had occurred, the Armenians immediately hastened to close their shops and to seek refuge in their houses, fearing there might be much worse treatment in store for them.

Turkish volunteers joined hands with the rabble, and being led by villains of the worst type (amongst whom there were some Greeks and Jews), began to loot the shops and private houses of Armenians under the threat of death, pretending to be searching for hidden arms and property of the Mohammedans during the Bulgarian rule, and marching off with valuables and horses. The Armenians had simply to submit to their fate, allowing themselves to be robbed.

MASSACRES BY TURKS.—TOWN BURNED.

AUTHENTICATED STORY OF OUTRAGE AND PLUNDER.

We quote from the reports of the Consuls of the Powers in Thrace and from the Assistant Bishop of the Metropolitan of Rodosto:

The Assistant Bishop was a member of a Commission sent out to investigate the charges of massacre which early had begun to reach Constantinople. He had as colleagues four Christians, of whom two were Greeks and two Armenians, and a Turkish mufti. His report is dated July 25, and reached Constantinople on July 30.

BOMBS AND PETROLEUM.

"On our arrival at Malgara," he writes, "we saw burnt houses. We found on making inquiries that the Bulgarians left on the 15th, and had not done anything wrong. Then Mehmed Ali and Mustafa Pasha came from Gallipoli with the Turkish troops. They were met by the population, who saluted them.

"On July 17 the army commenced pillaging the houses of Christians. At evening a fire broke out, caused by bombs thrown into Armenian houses by Turks. Petroleum carts went about the streets all night, and soldiers threw petroleum over everything. Panic occurred; people fled from the burning quarter to other houses, but were fired on by troops. Several fled to the bazaar, where thirteen Armenians and five Greeks were at once killed. At night the town was abandoned to the troops. The bazaar and many Armenian houses were burnt. The wind changed and burnt some Turkish houses. Nearly 300 houses, of which 67 were Greek, 15 Ottoman, and the rest Armenian, were destroyed.

PRIEST TORTURED.

"On the same day, July 17, the army passed to Kalivia. When they entered it a trumpet was sounded and an officer gave the order, 'Plunder and massacre!' (Yagma, Yakun, Kessin.) Thereupon the army dispersed and killed all the Christians they met. All the houses were looted. A priest told us that they caught him by the beard, tortured him till he lost consciousness, and robbed him. Women were seized. An eye-witness tells us he saw a girl jump from a window to avoid a Turkish soldier. . . . The Canon of the Greek Monastery with his priests, took refuge in the Belfry, but, seeing the danger, they tried to fly. They were caught by the troops, and ropes were put round their necks, but the canon had his throat cut at once; a priest was also killed. The village and neighbourhood are full of corpses of men, women, and children. Many girls allowed themselves to be burned in their houses in order to save themselves from the soldiers. Several of the victims went mad.

"Sakche was a hamlet of seven Greek families. When the army appeared an officer demanded of a man whether the hamlet was Christian or Moslem, and on his reply gave orders to burn it. The order was obeyed. The inhabitants who had not fled were burnt.

"An eye-witness at Haskey said that after the entry of the army he heard shots; many women and girls were caught by soldiers and were taken to a windmill. Afterwards they were stripped naked and sent away. A little later Moslem villagers arrived, and pillaged everything belonging to the Christians. Then fire broke out, and the village was burned.

HUNTED BY DOGS.

"The Bashi-Bazouks had many dogs with them. They hunted refugees, and the Bashi-Bazouks shot them. Our informant saw Christe Lambro, a notable, who had had his eyes gouged out and his nose slit because he would not say where his valuables were hidden."

The report gives details not unlike those of Haskeuy, in regard to the villages of Thimitkeui, Kurtli, and Temberitkeui.

Seven villages paid each a ransom varying from 150 to 200 Turkish pounds to save themselves. They were only partly pillaged.

The Kaimakam of Malgara said "they deserved what they got, because they had sheltered Bulgarians."

At Kariopolis houses were pillaged; many people were imprisoned and tortured. Notables were forced to give declaration that the pillage and murder had been done by Bulgarians.

At Haskeuy of Kariopolis an officer ordered the population to church and then his troops pillaged the houses. The Mouktar was ordered by the officer in command, revolver in hand, to choose for him three Greek girls. The Mouktar indignantly refused, but had to flee. In the evening all the women were gathered at a large threshing floor.

The report goes on to indicate the fate of these women, and adds that neither old age nor extreme youth was spared.

COMMANDING OFFICERS' ORDERS.

"The Kaimakam of Kariopolis," continues the writer, "told us that these things were done by Bulgarians disguised as Turkish soldiers. But the Italian Consul, who was present, at once replied that he knew from what he had himself seen that the statement was false, and that they were committed by Turkish soldiers, who were still hunting down and shooting Christians. The Mufti invited us into a room and during three hours tried to induce us to sign a report ascribing the atrocities to Bulgarians."

"My conviction is," the statement concludes, "that the destruction of the town of Malgara and of most of the neighbouring villages and the extermination of the Greek population is due to the Turkish army and Turkish irregulars, and especially to the 27th Regiment of the Aleppo division of the 5th Army Corps, who came from Gallipoli, and that the signals for pillage and massacre were given in each case by the commanding officers."

The Metropolitan of Rodosto reports that the evident intention of the Turks was to exterminate the Christian element.

"The Daily News and Leader" (Aug. 6).

HORRORS OF WAR.

TURKISH ATROCITIES.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Saturday (by indirect route).

Appalling reports of massacre and devastation committed by Turkish irregulars are coming in from the districts in Thrace newly reoccupied by the Turks. These accounts emanate from trustworthy sources, and, even allowing for a certain amount of exaggeration, compel one to believe that the country about Malgara especially is being converted into a hell upon earth.

Turks are wreaking dreadful vengeance upon the Christian villages spared by the Bulgarians. The Turkish troops who advanced first behaved comparatively well, and only a few cases of beatings and some isolated murders were reported. Behind the line of regulars, however, hordes of so-called volunteers, but better described as Bashi Bazouks, as well as Kurdish regulars, have worked their will upon the Christian population.

SACKING OF MALGARA.

In Malgara Bazar, with 280 shops, 150 houses were looted and burnt, and the inmates who attempted to escape were killed. Eighteen villages in the neighbourhood are known to have suffered similar treatment. At one, Kalivia, it is stated that there was serious loss of life during the burning of a monastery. Refugees are pouring into the larger towns or escaping across the frontier.

"The Daily Telegraph" (July 28).

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 26.

News received from trustworthy sources unhappily proves that the rumours of grave excesses by the Turkish troops in Southern Thrace are not unfounded. Great cruelties have been committed in places remote from the coast and the railway, and under the cover of a dust storm raised by ingenious authors exaggerated versions of the excesses are ascribed to the retreating Bulgarians. Four days ago the Agence Ottomane published without ostensible reason a statement signed by the Greek priest and notables of Airolol to the effect that they owed their lives to the protection of Turkish troops. Those familiar with Hamidian Press methods, which are the methods, too, of the Judaeo-Turkish Press, scented "events," to use a local euphemism. The same Agency had already published a semi-official *communiqué* accusing the Bulgarians of having burned a number of villages in Thrace.

The facts are as follows:—From Consular sources it is reported that in the evening of the 15th inst. Turkish troops entered Malgara, accompanied by volunteers, the latter belonging to the national defence corps raised under the auspices of the Committee from the Fedais and roughest elements of the Moslem population. They shot a few Christians working in the fields, but did not do much harm till Thursday, when the majority of them marched north with Enver Bey. The remainder turned upon the Bazaar quarter, which is mainly inhabited by Greeks and Armenians, set it on fire, killing all who tried to escape from the flames, and destroying 280 shops and 150 houses. Had this been done in a Bulgarian district it would have been explicable, though the Bulgarians only burned a few houses in Malgara, but the victims of this outrage were all Greeks and Armenians. Refugees report to the Consuls at Rodosto that 18 villages, the names of several of which were given by the Agence Ottomane as having been destroyed by the

Bulgarians, have been burned by the Turks and that many of the inhabitants were killed. The Agence Ottomane's statement with regard to Airobol may be explained by the fact that refugees who arrived at Rodosto assert that a large number of Greeks were killed or burned in the church of that village. In any case, the Greeks seem already to have repented of their short-lived enthusiasm for their liberators, and the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs to-day are making strong representations to the Government demanding the punishment of the guilty, restitution, and compensation. In Greek circles it is expected that these events will put an end to Hellenic eagerness to come quickly to terms with Turkey. "*The Times*" (July 28).

The Armenian Question in the House of Commons.

BRITISH OFFICIALS IN TURKISH ASIA.

July 22.

Mr. ANNAN BRYCE (L., Inverness Burghs) asked the Foreign Secretary whether the Government was still negotiating with Turkey with regard to the appointment of British officials in the Asiatic provinces; and to what extent were such British services to be utilised by the Turkish Government.

Mr. ACLAND.—This question has been suspended pending the consideration of reforms which are now engaging the attention of the Representatives at Constantinople.

ALLEGED OUTRAGES BY TURKISH TROOPS.

August 7.

Mr. N. BUXTON (Norfolk, N., Min.) asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether any report had been received from his Majesty's Consular Agent at Rodosto in regard to the outrages lately committed by Turkish troops; if so, what were the main facts indicated; and whether he would publish the report.

SIR E. GREY.—I have now received several reports from the British Acting Vice-Consul at Rodosto respecting the recent events there. If I publish these reports I shall be bound to publish also those which I have received tending to incriminate other nationalities in the Balkans also.

SIR J. D. REES (Nottingham, E., Opp.) asked if the right hon. gentleman was aware that a very unfortunate effect on Mahomedan opinion was created by questions of the character just asked.

SIR E. GREY.—I am aware that questions which are put of this kind create an unfavourable impression in one country or another and therefore I have endeavoured in all the answers I have given where I have had unfavourable reports affecting any particular nationality to state in the answer that we should treat them all alike in order to prevent any suspicion that we were dealing differently with one Government and another.

Russia and Armenia.

PARTITION OF SPHERES IN ARMENIA.

The movement of Russian armies on the Armenian frontier seems to show that the Russian Government has other ideas of dealing with Turkey if it should become necessary to use force.

Such a Russian forward movement would clearly have serious consequences. For if Russia goes to Armenia, Austria will certainly demand the Sanjak; and Germany will quickly be roused from the lethargy with which she contemplates the slaughter of Balkan peasants. It is the tradition of German policy to be indifferent to the Balkans. But that indifference does not extend across the Bosphorus. There Germany has claims, and if Russia contemplates action in Armenia it must be because she is ready to precipitate that partition of spheres in Asia Minor which is probably the next big development of European politics.

It would certainly be the clearest and simplest counter-move to the Turkish defiance of the Powers in Europe, and it may be suspected that it is the possibility of this development which lies behind the menaces of the Prime Minister and Sir Edward Grey.

The Turk cares nothing about good government, and his attitude towards the good government of Christian provinces is the attitude of a wolf towards the good government of sheep. Lord Cromer once told me that he could make absolutely no progress with the good government of Egypt until he had cleared out the Turkish pashas from Cairo. In the same way the only possible step towards the good government of Armenia would be to clear out the Turkish rulers, bag and baggage. It is precisely that policy against which the Turk is now fighting.

Harold Spender in "*The Daily News*" (July 28).

ROME, Friday, July 25.

I am informed on the most reliable authority that the Triple Alliance, in conjunction with the Entente Powers, have presented a Note to Russia authorising and requesting Russia to occupy Armenia in order to compel Turkey to withdraw her forces behind the Enos-Midia line.—"*Express*" Correspondent.

Mr. Asquith stated in his speech at Birmingham:—

"If—and I wish to be perfectly explicit on this point—if Turkey is ill-advised enough to set the provisions of that treaty (fixing the boundary of Turkey in Europe by a line drawn from Enos, on the *Ægean* Sea, to Midia, on the Black Sea) at naught, she must be prepared—and I will say no more at present—she must be prepared for an opening up of questions that it is by no means in her interest to bring into debate."

Most far-reaching possibilities are opened up by this decision of the Great Powers. Russia has for some days past been moving large bodies of troops, and it is probable that the occupation of Armenia will be effected immediately.

Owing to the strong position taken up by Russia on this point, the problem the other Powers have to solve comes to this: How will it be possible, in order to obviate the danger of isolated action by Russia, to get the Turks out of Adrianople?

In diplomatic quarters it is realised that if Russia should act she could hardly do otherwise than invade Armenia.

In Asia all the problems of general interest which the Powers will have to solve in the future have not yet matured to a degree where peaceful solutions may be devised by diplomacy. For the last few months the motto of European diplomacy so far as Asia is concerned, has been, "Noli tangere." It is because they realise the difficulty of bringing about an understanding between themselves on the subject that the Powers are practically agreed on a policy of collective assistance for the Turks.

Some time ago it was practically decided that for each of the three zones into which all the Turkish vilayets of Asia will be grouped England will furnish an inspector and a comptroller entrusted with administrative duties, as well as a staff of gendarmerie officers, while French officials will take in hand the financial administration, and Germany will give officers for the army.

"The Daily Telegraph" (July 25).

GERMAN POLICY.

When it was known in Berlin that Russia might be forced to intervene in Armenia by way of inducing the Turks to leave Adrianople as the Powers meant it to be left, the tone of the German Press generally became ominous enough. Germany, said the papers, with a unanimity which can be explained only by official inspiration, had no objection to such intervention, for, presumably, Turkey-in-Asia would have to be divided some day, and German interests in Asia Minor were large and important. Such, at least, is the gist of the guarded and meandering language of the official newspapers. The meaning is clear enough: if Russia has to intervene to the extent of annexing even part of Armenia, Germany will demand "compensation," as in the now classic instance of Morocco. Who said that the Teutonic mind had no aptitude for business?

"Vanity Fair" (July 30).

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 21.

It is held here that Turkey is playing a very dangerous game, which she is neither morally nor militarily entitled to play. Any continuation of her present disposition can only result in the occupation of the vilayets of Erzeroum, Trebizond, and Van by Russia.

Turkey will hardly persist in the face of the united Great Powers. She is only pursuing her old game of seeking to set the Great Powers by the ears in the hope of maintaining her position.

"The Daily Chronicle" (July 22).

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Friday.

For the past two or three days hints have been thrown out here as to the possibility, or, in certain contingencies, the probability, of a Russian invasion of Armenia as a means of inducing the Turkish Government to recall its troops from Thrace. Perhaps it was thought that the mere underlining of this threat might have the desired effect, as it is believed here that Turkey is for the moment morally, financially and physically exhausted, and that her advance to Adrianople is merely a desperate speculation on the dissensions of the Balkan States and the jealousies of the Great Powers.

Germany would presumably regard Russian action in Armenia without alarm. If it was effective and merely temporary, well and good, and if it resulted in permanent occupation, and consequently, as many people here anticipate, in the partition of Asiatic Turkey, she would count on getting a substantial share, which, for various reasons, would be very welcome to her.

"The Daily Telegraph" (July 26).

VIEW IN FRANCE.

It is known in Paris, says the "*Echo*," that Russia will take action in Armenia.

The "*Matin*" says, in certain quarters it is feared the occupation of Armenia by Russia might lead to the opening of further questions in Asia Minor. In well-informed circles in Paris, Russia, it is declared, has no intention of permanently occupying this region, and will withdraw her troops as soon as Turkey withdraws hers from Adrianople.

The "*Journal*" announces that it is in a position to state that Russia will act in complete agreement with the Great Powers as regards Armenia.—*Reuter*.

The Press on Armenia.

TURKEY AND HER FUTURE.

August reviews contain a good many articles on the future of Turkey in Asia. Mr. Lovat Fraser, in the *National*, fully realises that the troubles of Turkey are not at an end with the loss of her position in Europe, and he writes:—

“That Turkey still has a splendid heritage in Asia Minor is beyond question. Her military strength has always been chiefly drawn from her Asiatic provinces. Under wise and prudent control, and with the help of irrigation engineers in Anatolia and Chaldea, Asiatic Turkey could become one of the richest countries in the world. Whether after their miserable failure in Europe they will recover wisdom—if they ever possessed it—remains to be seen. One may contemplate the outlook without much hope, but certainly not with despair. The Turkish Government has much to do in Asia Minor before it fulfils the expectations of those who still wish it well. The Armenian problem, of which more anon, is not the only complication which confronts it. The Kurds are a constant source of anxiety, Syria is restive and inclined to clamour for autonomy, and the Arab population along the lower Tigris and Euphrates is always in a state of chronic but half-timorous revolt.

“All these difficulties might be overcome by just and humane treatment of the subject races; but while the cult of political assassination continues to engross the attention of Stamboul it is useless to expect administrative sanity in Asia Minor. Two things may with some confidence be predicted about the future of the remnant of the Turkish Empire. The first is that the vague dreams of German colonisation in Asiatic Turkey, which attracted enthusiasts in Berlin a few years ago, have not now—and probably never had—the slightest prospect of being realised. Germany’s ‘mission’ in Asia Minor resolves itself into the furnishing of capital and the initiation of economic enterprises. British capital and energy have found a similar outlet in South America and in Mexico, but we have not dignified our business undertakings in these regions with the designation of a ‘mission.’ The second conclusion is that the scheme recently propounded for placing large areas in Turkey’s Asiatic provinces under foreign tutelage will never be accepted at Constantinople, and cannot safely be enforced by external pressure. The Turks undoubtedly mean to follow their own bent in the vestiges of their possessions. If their policy involves them in final ruin, they will bow to the will of Allah. Their success or failure depends upon their appreciation of the saying, disregarded in modern Turkey, that ‘God helps those who help themselves.’”

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

Coming to the Armenian Question, Mr. Lovat Fraser says: “It may be predicted with some confidence that the time is near at hand when the Powers will be turning with even greater apprehension towards Armenia,” and continues:—

“To the popular imagination, the Armenians seem to be a race leading a precarious existence punctuated by massacres. They are something more than that. The more intellectual among the Armenians are awake and eager. They long for the betterment of their position, and are aggrieved that the Turkish Revolution which promised so hopefully, has brought them no alleviation of their woes. The Government at Stamboul gives them no efficient protection against the depredations and cruelties of the Kurds. It has made repeated pledges which it was unable to fulfil, doubtless because it was immersed in troubles elsewhere. Meanwhile the Armenians feel that they can wait no longer. They are being tempted to look for help in directions other than the Golden Horn. They have plucked up enough spirit to declare that they will not continue to submit to intermittent butchering. If Turkey will not save them from the Kurds, other nations may.

“The chances are that their destinies will be decided by others. In the Middle East the Armenian question is the problem to watch just now. It may be heard of with startling insistence very soon, and in ways which may not bode well for the future of Turkey.

“The Baghdad Railway should spell progress, but the menace of the Armenian problem may at any moment thrust it into the background once more.”

GRAVE OUTLOOK.

There has been no more genuine and unanimous matter of agreement among the representatives of the Great Powers at the Conference of London than that the present trouble should by all possible means be restricted to Turkish territory in Europe. It is true that France once flashed in their eyes a dangerous claim to a sphere of influence in Syria, and that at one time the question of the *Ægean Islands* came dangerously near to rousing a sleeping dog. But it was felt on all sides that sufficient unto the day was the European evil, and their Excellencies may be congratulated upon having deferred for so long what is certain to prove one day the thorniest of all questions connected with the political restriction of the sovereignty of the Caliph. But, though the Great Powers have restrained themselves from discussion of the dreaded topic with an almost audible determination, there is no gain-saying the laws of natural politics. The sudden reversal of the position in the Balkans, and the consequent recrudescence of Turkish pride, if not perhaps of Turkish ambition, have drawn into prominence the last thing that any one of the Powers, great or small, Montenegro or Russia herself, wished to see engaged in this topsy-turvy struggle—the practical

power of Russia to intervene in Asia. But there seems at this moment small chance of avoidance, and it is as well, perhaps, to realise what the actual conditions are. The more they are recognised—the more, that is, that Turkey is made to understand how greatly it is to her interests to respect the Peace Convention and abandon all hope of humiliating Bulgaria—the more hope there is of saving Europe from a serious danger. For there is hardly an interest in European Turkey possessed by a Great Power that she cannot at a pinch entrust to arbitration; but there are four distinct claims to influence in Turkey in Asia that neither England, Russia, Germany, nor France can make a matter for the decision of any judicial tribunal.

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

With the other problems there is neither space, nor indeed an urgent necessity, to deal to-day. But the Armenian difficulty cannot be shelved much longer. It would be an over-statement to say that the Armenians had as a race ingratiated themselves with the people of this country. A certain sense of justice rather than any favour has always been the moving force in any action, public or private, undertaken by the English in regard to Armenia—and if there is a better argument for our action in this or any matter I do not know it. At the present moment it seems likely that, apart from a floating Greek population in Constantinople and round the Asiatic shore of the Ægean Sea (who can very well look after themselves), the Armenians will shortly become the only Christians domiciled under the Crescent. Herein the trouble lies.

This is an outlook that has its serious side. All the world knows that terrible massacres of Armenians have taken place within the last twenty years, and that the express stipulations for good government contained in the agreement of St. Stephano, Berlin, and Cyprus have, as a matter of fact, been dead letters. The Armenians—whose nimble wits have for centuries given them an intellectual advantage which the Kurds, Turks, and other races could only countervail by the crude methods of the bludgeon and the knife—have of late years believed that the only safety for them and only possible protection for their national proclivities lay beneath the ægis of the Tsar. There has been, in consequence, a steady tendency on the part of these Asiatic Christians to look northwards for their helper. Russia has not always responded. There have been periods in diplomatic conversations when Moscow persisted in saying to London, "Well, if you are so fond of the Armenians why don't you protect them yourself?" It was a not unnatural riposte to the general policy of this country in regard to questions affecting Russia and Turkey, and the ex-Sultan was not slow to avail himself of the dilemma in which we found ourselves. The backbone of his Caliphate policy was the conciliation of the Arabs and the Kurds, and there was no easier and more effectual way of achieving this end than an occasional persecution of helpless Christians. It must be remembered that no massacre of Armenians took place without the sanction of the Ottoman Government. But all this has undergone a transformation.

RUSSIA AND ARMENIA.

For the last few years there has been a steady concentration of Russian troops in the southern district of the Caucasus—near the point beside Mount Ararat, where the frontiers of three sovereignties meet. This assembly has not received in the Press the notice that it possibly deserved. So long as it was conceivable that the European problems could be solved without dragging in the tangles of Asiatic policies, no good could have been done by referring to the large weights with which Russia was empowering herself to tip the beam of Turkey in Europe at any time that she thought expedient. Most of us believed that in Europe Turkey's beam was sufficiently and permanently high. Time has proved that this may not have been the case, and the counter-weights prepared by Russia have now to be taken into consideration. It is possible that we shall live to be grateful to Russia for having made ready this additional means of redressing the balance of the Great Powers in Europe; it is also possible that we may eventually regard the pressure that at this moment can and probably will be put upon Turkey in the Ararat district as the exploitation of a Christian sentiment to the advantage of a State that has already as much influence in Central Asia as is good for the balance in Europe.

THE SITUATION.

It may be of use to recall to the readers of *The Daily Telegraph* that no activity of Russia in the Armenian uplands has much real importance for ourselves. If the truth must be told, the influence of Russia—always provided that this influence neither reduces nor threatens the rights that we possess against all foreign intervention in the Persian Gulf and its tidal waters—has, on the whole, been on the side of good government, and can, as a rule, be accepted by us. Armenia has now appealed to Russia—even appealing to the Tsar by his title as the Sovereign of the Armenians. It is a desperate challenge, but it is not unlikely that Russia is willing to answer it. Something has to be done to restore that nervous balance in South-Eastern Europe which diplomatists agree to regard as peace. The threat of action near Erzerum, or the demonstration of a naval force off the coast of Bulgaria, may have the desired effect, and the last and most inexplicable reverse of military fortune may, in the end, be dealt with pacifically. But if not, Russia is well aware that there are other ways of controlling a restive horse than by clubbing it on the nose; and Turkish politicians, if they are wise, will bear in mind that much more than Armenia itself is involved in the retention of Turkish supremacy and the administration of law and order by the Ottoman Government among the Christian uplands of Asia Minor. For the moment we can only stand and look on. But it is wise to re-impress upon the readers of *The Daily Telegraph* the grim truth that recent events in the Balkans have rendered more likely by one stage that most feared of all issues, the embroilment of Europe over the Asiatic territory, that the unexpected weakness of Turkey has rendered a spoil for stronger nations.

A Correspondent in "*The Daily Telegraph*" (July 26).

Armenian Reforms.

THE OUTLOOK IN ARMENIA.

The situation in Armenia is growing less and less satisfactory. The Government has arrested or killed some Kurdish brigands, but the Armenians complain that few of the notoriously anti-Armenian Beys who have done most of the harm in the past have even been cautioned, and that sporadic anti-Armenian crimes persist. There is a tendency in some quarters to criticise the British Government because it failed to send Gendarmerie officers in compliance with Turkish requests in order to improve the situation in Kurdistan. But it is difficult to see what such officers could effect owing to their necessary ignorance either of the language or of local conditions for some months after their arrival at Erzerum or Baiburt. It is difficult to avoid the conviction that troubles may occur at any moment up-country, and that the arrival of foreign officials, concerning whose powers nothing has yet been settled, would no more avail to keep the country quiet than did the presence of a highly competent and Turcophil British Consul avail to prevent the first and second Adana massacres. The fact is that the killing of Armenians at Rodosto and Malgara, and the absorption of the Government in the campaign, for such it is, against the Bulgarians has strained Armenian patience to breaking point, while the recent military promenade to Adrianople has made the Army and a large section of the Committee averse from any concession.—“*The Times*” (July 26).

ILLUSORY PROMISES.

“Promises (as in the Treaty of Berlin) have always been illusory, but we hope that the Ambassadors at Constantinople will be able to draw up a plan in conjunction with the Porte. An essential part of the plan would be the introduction of European officers into Armenia. We heartily agree that the welfare of long-suffering Armenia must be carefully provided for in the final settlement.”—“*Spectator*” (July 5.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 12.

The Ministry of the Interior has decided to despatch a Commission composed of Captain Deedes, of the British Army, Colonel Husni Bey, Major Vedad Bey, and a Civil Inspector, Sami Bey, to Armenia to study the demands of the population.—*Reuter*.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Thursday (1.15 p.m.)

It will be remembered that the question of Armenian reforms was taken in hand by the Ambassadors of the six Great Powers, whose representatives met weekly at Yenikeui, at the residence of the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, the Austrian Ambassador. According to information derived from good sources, this conference has come to a standstill.

As I telegraphed at the beginning of July, Russia presented a plan similar to the former scheme put forward by England, France, and Russia in 1895, with a view to the nomination of a High Commissioner by agreement between the Great Powers. No accord could be arrived at on this project, Germany declaring that she found opportune neither the nomination of a High Commissioner by agreement with the Powers nor a delimitation of the districts inhabited by Armenians.

“*The Daily Telegraph*” (July 25.)

BERLIN, July 30.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Tageblatt* telegraphs that the Porte has submitted to the Ambassadors a proposal for carrying out reforms in Armenia by which the Armenians would be accorded a certain measure of autonomy. A project on similar lines is being prepared for Arabia. The correspondent adds that the proposals in regard to Armenia have been approved by the Diplomatic Corps with some modifications.—*Central News*.

Latest News from Armenia.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS SENT TO THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

IN THE PROVINCE OF VAN.

USAD. *May 30th*.—Four Armenians of Usad (Sbarger, Van), on their way to the neighbouring village of Muks, were attacked by mounted Kurds. An old Armenian named Kalust was murdered and the others, entrenching themselves behind rocks, drove back the Kurds. But the latter received reinforcements, and the three Armenians retreated fighting.

MUKS. *May 31st*.—Three Armenians of Muks (Van), accompanied by ten Kurdish musketeers, started from Khijan (Bitlis) to buy salt near the village Djort. They were attacked by the robbers harboured by the Sheikh of Khijan, a criminal, whom a German traveller, Herr Drubha, used to call “a devil disguised in human form.” Two of the

Armenians, named Melkon and Hagop, were killed outright. The remaining one, named Manug, pleaded that he was in the service of one Mir Hossan, a Kurdish notable in the neighbourhood, but the leader of the band replied that even if he were in the service of God he would be destroyed because he was an Armenian; and Manug was shot in cold blood, and his Kurdish companions did nothing to protect him. The three mules and money belonging to the latter were carried off. The unfortunate widows and orphans of the above murdered persons went to Muks to ask for justice to be done, but there is no justice for the Christians in Turkey.

BERVARI. *June 2nd.*—The Kurdish tribes called Jitzan and Mamkhuran raided an Armenian village in Bervari (on the borderland of Van and Bitlis), killed four Armenians and one Kurd working in the fields, and carried off about 2,000 sheep belonging to both; the names of the victims are not mentioned, but there are proofs that the family of the notorious Bedrkhan, the so-called leaders of the Kurdish movement, are concerned in this outrage.

VAGIM. *June 2nd.*—The above Kurds raided the Armenian village of Vagim of 300 families (in Van). The peasants beat off the Kurds, inflicting heavy losses on them. Vagim is one of the Armenian villages which has always bravely stood against attacks and oppression for years past. Now the Government seems to have decided to suppress the village as rebels.

GORGAR. *June 4th.*—R. Hanoyan, K. Mikhayan and V. Par-seghian, three Armenians of Gorgar (Van), returning home from Constantinople, were killed in the vicinity of their village by the son of the above Sheikh of Khizan.

NAREG. *June 4th.*—Turkish soldiers gravely wounded an old Armenian named Bedros from the village of Nareg (Van), they say by a misunderstanding. Two days afterwards the same soldiers disarmed two Armenians walking in their field, whereas they gave all hospitality to the above Sheikh of Khizan, who came to the village followed by men armed with Government rifles.

KERS. *June 7th.*—An Armenian youth of Kers (Van) was mutilated by Kurdish neighbours while working alone in the field.

June 12th.—The Armenian delegates appointed by the Government to take part in the deliberations of the Provincial Council refused to attend the meeting because, in consequence of the reforms introduced by the Turks their members have been reduced by half of what it used to be two years ago during the Parliamentary elections. Every Turkish reform begins by curtailing some existing right of the Christians.

BOGHAZKESSEN. *June 13th.*—The Bishop of Van wired to the Patriarch: "Kurdish brigands raided the Armenian village of Boghazkessen and carried off 500 sheep. One man killed."

KHARASHIG. *June 15th.*—The gendarmes quartered in the village Kharashig (Van) to protect the people against Kurdish depredations, violated a Syrian woman named Kheno, whose husband was labouring in his field.

KHARASHIG. *June 16th.*—The same gendarmes in the same village violated another Syrian woman named Khame. The Syrians of the village applied to the Vali of Van, giving the names of gendarmes Rashid Bashir and Yacoul. So far no steps have been taken to punish them.

ARDJAK. *June 18th.*—About 30 mounted Kurds attempted to steal the sheep of the Armenian village Ardjak. The village guards managed to drive back the robbers, but the Gendarmerie officer of the place, Tewfik Bey, disarmed the three Armenians who had so bravely protected the village. The peasants have been deprived of their means of self-defence and cannot go to the fields.

GODJI. *June 19th.*—Khatchig Hovhannessian, an Armenian of Godji (Adiljiva Van), has been killed by the men of the notorious Hussein Pasha.

MARVED. *June 12th.*—At sunset some Kurds attempted to carry off the ploughs and cattle of Armenians of Marved (Van). The villagers surrounded them, and after getting hold of their property, left the scoundrels to clear away.

June 20th.—Contingents of Turkish emigrants from Macedonia are pouring into the town of Van. The authorities are inspiring them with prejudice against the Christians.

URANTZ. *June 25th.*—More than 500 mounted Kurds attacked the Armenian village Urantz (vilayet of Van), and attempted to destroy it. They were driven back by the villagers, who killed a dozen of the Kurds. Troops have been ordered from Bitlis to repress the Armenian "rebels" of Urantz. All young men of the village have been taken to the mountains. Serious trouble is expected. When a Christian attempts to defend himself, the Turks call him a rebel.

ADILJEVA.—News has just arrived that an Armenian family of five, who started from Adiljeva (vilayet of Van) to go to the lake, have been literally cut to pieces by Kurds, who followed them. Their limbs are scattered over the neighbouring fields. No one knew of the crime till a week after it was committed. Further details are lacking.

THE PROVINCE OF BITLIS.

TALICK. *April 21st.*—The brigand chief Mahmé, of Kopar, carried off to the mountains two men and two women from Talick, and after getting a ransom of £25 liberated them. Now that same brigand, with eighty men, has fixed his tents on the summit of Banar, and is evidently threatening the Government of Khizan.

SGHERD. *April 27th.*—Kyoni, Gol, and Pietier, villages of Gharzan, were plundered and two persons severely wounded.

BAGHESH. *May 12th.*—Last night the Kurds carried off five Armenians from the village Corven. A Syrian priest of Eroon was killed. The Governor is a silent spectator. It is impossible for the people to endure any longer. Explain our plight to the Central Government unreservedly and in the strongest possible manner.

PANTERMA. *May 13th.*—An Arnavoot (Albanian) shepherd called Hassan shot and killed the Armenian Hacop who was in charge of cattle grazing in the neighbourhood of Mikhalige.

SGHERD. *May 14th.*—The Gotin, Semhouran, and Zerkan tribes killed four Armenians and wounded four others belonging to the village Panishan in February and carried off 1,000 sheep. As the numerous complaints against the brigand chief, Mehmed Emin, were left disregarded by the authorities, he killed Priest Gregory, of Zintrigin.

BAGHESH. *May 24th.*—Telegram from Baghesh.—According to accounts reaching here from Moosh, Sgherd, and Khizan, systematic murders and robberies continue. Communication between villages and cultivation of the fields is stopped. Help! The new Governor arrived here on April 26th, and as a sacrifice to him they killed Johannes of Pas at midday about 4½ hours distance from town. Our condition is grave.

BOR. *June 10th.*—An Armenian named Artin Yeghiazarian, of the village Bor, an hour from Bitlis, was mutilated by knives on the hill overlooking the village while cutting wood. The murderers are thought to be the Kurds, who claim the ownership of the hills. No one has been arrested. On the same day three Armenians were robbed of all they possessed near the town. At the risk of their lives they appealed to the authorities and revealed the names of the robbers, but the police took no notice of it.

ERUN. *June 12th.*—A Syrian Christian priest named Samuel, of Erun (district of Bitlis), was murdered by the notorious brigand, Mehmed Emin. Eight hundred Christians of the district, Syrians and Armenians, rushed to the town (Bitlis), imploring protection from the authorities. The latter are heedless of the appeal of the Christian peasants, who complain in vain that their crops are being destroyed, their crops are at the mercy of inhuman robbers, and that their lives are in danger. No steps have been taken to protect them.

BULANIK. *June 15th.*—Two Armenians named Haro and Bedros, of Bulanik (vilayet of Bitlis), started for Bitlis, to buy some oxen. On the road near Angasor they were cruelly murdered by the Kurds of the village. The corpses were seen by an Armenian traveller, who was warned by two chief Kurds of Bitlis not to give evidence.

BITLIS. *June 18th.*—Bands of men organised by the Sheikh of Khizan, a criminal of the foulest record, have been cutting off communication between Bitlis and Khizan, a district of 60 Armenian villages on the south-east of the vilayet. Two Armenians carrying salt have been taken to the mountains with their animals and loads. There is no news of their fate.

THE PROVINCE OF ERZEROUM.

KEUPRI. *June 23rd.*—The Bishop of Bitlis wires that "an Armenian named Karekin was killed in the town. The authorities are indifferent. Urgently request you to take steps to secure life and property of the Armenians against the increasing anarchy." News has reached here that on June 24th Turks attacked the Armenian village of Keupri, in the district of Passin (Erzeroum). After two hours' severe fighting the Turks were repulsed with heavy losses.

ALASHKERT.—On July 3rd, the Armenian Bishop of Alashkert (Vilayet of Erzeroum) wired to the Patriarch:

"Seven Armenian peasants of the village Khasdour (district of Alashkert) returning home from Russia have been surprised by Turkish soldiers. Five of the Armenians named Kegham, Melkon, Mucas, Manug, and Houssig, were captured by the soldiers at Diaukordon (a gendarmerie post), and were taken to a lonely place on the Russo-Turkish frontier, where they were bayoneted in cold blood. The fact of their being killed by military bayonets has been proved by military doctors and the examining magistrates. Not only are the relatives of the murdered men not allowed to see the corpses but even a religious burial is denied them. The remaining two persons have disappeared. The people are in great distress."

THE PROVINCE OF DIARBEEKIR.

MONFARDIN (DIARBEEKIR).—While Aron, the Armenian chief of the village Ganigool, was ploughing his field, two Kurds approached and asked him to show them the way to a certain village. Whilst Aron went on to direct them they sprang upon him from behind and stabbed him in sixteen places. He died in two days. The criminals are arrested.

GARAGOSH.—A letter from Diarbekir says: "On the 7th of this month news reached the town that a regiment of Kurd Redifs on their way here from Slivan have plundered the neighbouring (Christian) village of Garagosh. The villagers poured into the town to complain, but to what purpose? The passage of Redif soldiers is taking place in a more fierce and barbarous manner than usual, even in the marketplace of Diarbekir and on the bridge there were numerous cases of plunder and threats to life. Owing to the unsafe condition of the villages and the increasing economic troubles, which have now become intolerable, the Armenians of the country have begun to emigrate."

BIELO. *June 18th.*—The Bishop of Diarbekir wired that an Armenian named Bedros Miloyan, of Tchenkush, had been killed near the village of Bielo (Diarbekir).

THE PROVINCE OF CILICIA AND ADANA.

MERSIN. *April 28th.*—Now that the Balkan question has entered into its last phase, we begin to hear rumours of impending massacres from all the towns of Cilicia. The fact of several (Armenian) houses at Marash being set on fire, the wanton cutting down of trees and shrubs, the marked policy in Zeitoun for the annihilation of the Armenians, the shameless behaviour of the gendarmes at Hadjin, the secret Ittihat movement in Sis, the renewed threats of the Turks at Adana, the attempted incendiarisms at Tarsus and Mersin, confirm the fears and convictions of the Armenians that the ruling Turkish Power is organised and ready to bring about a fresh massacre. Company after company of ferocious Turkish immigrants, thirsting for Christian blood, are coming in flocks to settle in our province. . . . The Turks generally are full of hatred against the Armenians, they threaten massacre, and are spreading terror among them. Many Armenian families have gone to Mersin for safety. Although it is the season for field labour, it is impossible for the Armenians to go to the fields under the circumstances. . . . If this continues there is the probability of a famine.

HADJIN.—A letter from Hadjin says: "On May 1 (14), during a terrible thunderstorm, a Turkish house, where four men were engaged in manipulating a large quantity of gunpowder, was struck by lightning, and a terrible explosion followed by which the four Turks were wounded. This self-evident fact was transformed by the officials into a telegram to Adana that the people of Hadjin (Armenians) had thrown a bomb into the house of a Turk and that four men were wounded. Two medical men were sent expressly, who after making a careful examination, reported the fact of the trouble being caused by lightning and not by a bomb. But the Government, without paying any attention to the report, have arrested and imprisoned four Armenians, Armenak Der Vahanian, Hadji Gregor Kizerian, Gregor Khotzourian, and another. On their houses being searched a Martini rifle was found in Armenak's house. Legal proceedings are being taken against them, and payment is demanded for the damage sustained by the four Turks, and also for the cost of the gunpowder. We are awaiting the final decision."

TARSUS. *May 6th, 1913.*—A correspondent at Tarsus writes: The situation here is getting intensified. The Armenians are afraid of the threats levelled at them. . . . Yesterday an Armenian, belonging to Sheikh Mourad, a village of Adana, when returning to town, was caught, and both his hands were chopped off, as if they were worthless branches of a tree.

The above are only a few out of the many instances of brutal persecution of the Armenians by the Turks, accounts of which have come to hand. Will you for pity's sake and in the name of humanity and justice kindly give prominence to them?

June 14th.—Kaspar Hagopian and his wife, of Kufra (Sandjak of Sairt), were attacked at night and killed in bed. The murderer, Ali Yonous, is not yet arrested.

THE PROVINCE OF AGHTAMAR.

KAVASH (AGHTAMAR). *May 8th, 1913.*—Murders and plunderings have begun here, and are multiplying. The tribe of Grav have killed two Armenian shepherds of the villages Khoomar and Gayet of Shodakh and carried off 2,000 sheep. The brigand chief Mir Mhé, with 60 men, has entered Khizan, and under threats is extorting money. Mir Mhé and Ali Agha of Khorook killed a Turkish tax-gatherer and two policemen. As the consequence of the explosion of a bomb at Erzingan there have been so many unjust arrests, searches, and imprisonments that the Armenians in terror and distress have begun to emigrate. Within a few weeks 200 have left, mostly young men of promise. The Constantinople papers of this week give particulars of unlawful searches by the Turkish Government at Marzovan, Samson, Amasia, and Hadjin.

THE PROVINCE OF BROUSSA.

ADABAZAR. *May 1st, 1913.*—Six Kurds from the village of Bagh recently entered the watermill of the Armenian Petros of the same village, pulled the mill down, cutting the joists to pieces, and rolled the stones down into a deep pit, whence it is impossible to recover them. It is known from a reliable source that the Kurds were the notorious robbers Muzden Dervish and Poso. On April 3 Avetis, of the same village, having dared to drive the sheep of the notorious Kurdish robber off his newly-sown field, the latter attacked him and beat him so severely about the head and body that blood flowed and he is ill in bed.

While we are going to Press the following list has been received from the Armenian Patriarchate, citing further cases of outrage:—

KARAHISSAR. *May 22nd.*—Last Monday evening at sunset, the Gendarmerie Commandant Achmet and his son, accompanied by 15 Bashibazouks, entered the village named Ziber under the pretence of having perceived an armed Armenian and searched the house where the alleged person was supposed to have taken refuge. Failing in their attempt, they searched three other houses.

During these searches they forced doors and trunks. The chiefs of the village followed the officers. For three hours the Armenians lived under the threat of a massacre.

One Rifaat and the Bashibozouks have cruelly beaten and trampled down men and women they came across.

Putting a bridle round the neck of an Armenian, Dicran, they dragged him in the streets. What are you waiting for, they said to the mouktar and the moslem population. "Don't you see that we are paving your way?" Then, addressing the gendarmes, "Be ready to massacre the giavours," they committed excesses of mediæval barbarity.

Soon afterwards, in the course of a wedding procession of a Turk, 50 or 60 Turks, armed with Martini rifles, proceeded in front of the barracks and the Government Konak. The authorities connived at all this, rifle shots being heard in the streets.

VAN. 24th May.—On the 14th inst. Turkish soldiers gravely wounded an Armenian named Bedros.

15th May.—Kurds have raided the cattle from the villages of Kimersti and Arkom. They killed one Manuk in the latter village.

17th May.—They carried off the rest of the plough oxen from Arkom.

May 19th.—The notorious Kurdish brigand Mir Méhé has killed one Armenian (name illegible).

VAN. May 6th.—Mir Méhé and Mahmé, who had fled to Persia, have returned and recommenced their misconduct. Kurds have surrounded the Armenian village Vogim. A bloody encounter may take place at any moment.

The news from Bashkalé is very serious. Sheikh Tahar Abdurrezok Bederhanzadé, Semgo, and other brigands have been terrorizing the Armenian villages in the vicinity of the Persian frontier.

BITLIS. May 5th.—Turks have cut down 300 trees belonging to the Armenian village of Parkhout, and after having destroyed the recently-sown fields of one Ohannessian, have erected in the middle of the field—as a threat—a tombstone.

MARZVAN. May 12th.—In the village of Vezir-Keupru, a young Armenian, Hateheres Arsenian, has been killed. The murderer is not arrested.

MUSH. May 14th.—Dervish, Halil, Hamo, three Kurds from the village Melko-Keli, have forcibly carried off the wife of an Armenian soldier named Galoyan, from Dalvorik. Another young Armenian girl has been abducted from Abri.

AVZUD (PLAIN OF MUSH).—Our village is exposed to a serious danger, surrounded by savage Kurdish tribes, and infested by criminals who have never been punished. Communication and travelling have become impossible. Our means of subsistence is breeding of cattle, which we cannot send to the pastures for fear of robbery. All our protests to the authorities are of no avail.

We are resolved to emigrate abroad in order to enjoy some rest.

Letters.

TURKISH REFORMS AND EUROPEAN CONTROL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

SIR,—You have recently published very important telegrams from Constantinople as to a scheme of reforms adopted by the Turkish Government for its Asiatic provinces. On behalf of the British Armenia Committee I desire, by your kind permission, a little space to comment on this news. We are a small body of Englishmen, some of whom have first-hand knowledge of Armenia and the East, all of whom have given special attention to the question, and had special means of coming in contact with the leaders of the Armenian people. I am certain that there is not one Armenian or one of us, who believes that any projects of Turkish reforms are worth anything unless they include enough control by the European Powers to ensure their being carried out. The projects of reforms have been numerous; the existing laws of Turkey are excellent; but the power, or else the will, to carry them out is lacking.

If the proposed inspectors-general, whether European or Ottoman, are to be merely servants of the Constantinople Government, there is no more reason to expect good results from the present scheme of reforms than from its predecessors. Experience shows that if reform is to be made real in Turkey it can only be by European control. If the Powers and Turkey will accept some scheme by which European inspectors-general are appointed with the consent of the Powers, irremovable except with the same consent, supported by an efficient *Gendarmerie*, and having the right to appeal, not habitually, but in the last resort, to the Powers for support, then indeed there is some hope, but not otherwise. The Powers know this perfectly well and the moral responsibility upon them is heavy. More than 30 years ago by the Treaty of Berlin Russia was made to evacuate Armenia on a promise of reforms by Turkey, but no reforms have resulted, except on paper. Instead there have been terrible massacres, both under the old *régime* and that of the Young Turks, and to the present moment there is no security for property, life, or woman's honour. There is now an opportunity for the Great Powers to perform the duty that their own action has imposed upon them, and to save Turkey from otherwise inevitable dissolution. She is proposing once more to reform and she will certainly need financial help. Let it be made an absolute condition of financial help that European control is accepted in the carrying out of the reforms. Without that there can be no real reform, and no security for any money lent to the Turkish Government.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ANEURIN WILLIAMS,

Chairman, British Armenia Committee.

"The Times" (July 12).

Announcements.

ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

There will be no meetings in August and September.

Armenia—A literary monthly Magazine, two dollars a year.
175, Fifth Avenue, New York.

Pour les peuples d'Orient—Organe de Revendications
Armeniennes, 10 fr. 4, Rue Crebillon, 4 Paris Vo.

The Friend of Armenia—Quarterly Paper. 1s. Annually.
47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

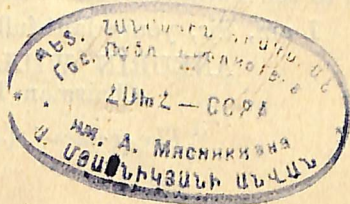
The Near East—A Weekly Review. Annual Subscription £1.
16—17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

The Church of Armenia—Her History, Doctrine, Rule,
Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Condition, by Mgr.
Malachia Ormanian, translated by G. Marcar Gregory. V.D., 5s. net.

*The Hon. Secretary of the Armenian United Association of London
will be glad to supply copies of this work.*

*The pages of "ARARAT" will be open for the discussion of the
expressed views in the signed articles or letters. The Editorial Committee
does not necessarily subscribe to all such views.*

*All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to
the Hon. Secretary, The Armenian United Association of London, 32,
Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.*



The Armenian United Association of London.

FOUNDED 1898. RECONSTRUCTED 1913.

Officials of the Association.

G. M. GREGORY, Lieut. Col., V.D.	President.
Madame RAFFI	Vice Presidents.
J. G. JOAKIM	
A. P. HACOBIAN	Hon. Treasurer.
J. A. CALANTARIANTS, M.D.	Hon. Asst. Treasurer.
ARAM RAFFI	Hon. Secretary.

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) of bringing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-; Life Members, 1 guinea.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

Communications affecting Membership, or any of the objects of the Association, should be addressed to

The Hon. Secretary,

32, Richmond Gardens,

Shepherd's Bush Green, London, W.

